

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1159

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Joseph T. Smith upon his induction into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, bring honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout its sterling history, Tennessee has been blessed with countless exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the music profession; and

WHEREAS, one such praiseworthy person is Joseph T. Smith, a fifty-year veteran of music education who was recently inducted into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tullahoma, Mr. Smith attended Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), from which he graduated following his service in the United States Marines; he later expanded his studies at Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Smith briefly taught at Franklin County High School in Winchester and Newton County High School in Covington, Georgia, before accepting the position of Marching Band Director and Assistant Concert Band Director at MTSU in 1959; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Smith was promoted to Director of Bands, in which position he served with acumen and alacrity for twenty-seven years, earning the respect of his students, colleagues, and Blue Raider fans alike for his dedication to music education in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, during his unparalleled tenure at MTSU, Joseph Smith led the band and university to wide acclaim with his implementation of programs that have become fixtures of the marching and concert band field; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. Smith created the Contest of Champions, which has grown to a thirty-two band competition and has been nationally televised by the Public Broadcasting System network; the success of the contest has led to the implementation of a host of other programs and opportunities for band students, such as the Southeast Instrumental Clinic, the Wind Band Conference, and the donation of tens of thousands of dollars to the MTSU Foundation for scholarships for students with a major or minor in music; and

WHEREAS, other accomplishments and contributions to music springing from the success of the Contest of Champions include the commissioning of two major works for wind band, a performance on the MTSU campus by the U.S. Marine Band and the U.S. Army Herald Trumpets & Drums, and the pioneering of the Olympic system of adjudication for marching band competitions that is accepted and used by many marching band events across the nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Joseph Smith has been active in several professional organizations, including Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (MTSBOA), Tennessee Music Educators Association (TMEA), Music Educators' National Conference (MENC), College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), National Band Association (NBA), Tennessee Band Association (TBA), American Bandmasters Association, Phi Mu Alpha, and Phi Beta Mu; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has been a peerless leader in band direction and music education; he has rendered impeccable service as the Director-Organizer of the All Tennessee Collegiate Band, Chairman of the NBA's marching activities and establishing the first All Tennessee Concert Band Festival, consultant of the forming of the Great American Music Festival, Executive Board member of the MTSBOA, and board member of the TMEA; and

WHEREAS, the impact Mr. Smith has made on the students at MTSU and abroad is significant and immeasurable and include founding the Tennessee Valley Winds community band, along with countless other contributions; and

WHEREAS, his significant contributions to marching and concert bands and music education have been duly noted with his receipt of numerous awards and accolades, including six Citations of Excellence from the NBA, the Medal of Honor from the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Board, the National Patron Award for Delta Omicron, and the Phi Mu Alpha

Orpheus Award, in addition to induction into the MTSU Band of Blue Hall of Fame; he has also been named a Kentucky and Tennessee Colonel and was awarded Professor Emeritus status from MTSU upon his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and awards aside, Mr. Smith is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with wife, Billie; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge Joseph Smith for his musical contributions and dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Joseph T. Smith on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame, applaud his meritorious service to music education and the state of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.